

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 23 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative
of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of
the Security Council**

I have the honour to transmit to you, and through you to the members of the Security Council, a letter dated 5 January 2012 from H.E. Ms. Gamar Khalipha Habani, Secretary-General of the Sudanese National Council for Child Welfare, addressed initially to the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund in the Sudan regarding the flagrant involvement of the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in mass recruitment of children in Southern Kordofan State. The letter also provides details about the transportation of the children to the Republic of South Sudan for training (see annex).

Having brought this to your kind attention, I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Daffa-Alla Elhag Ali **Osman**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 23 January 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Subject: Children recruited by Sudan People's Liberation Army/Sudan People's Liberation Movement in South Kordofan

It was widely reported during past weeks that Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) were actively involved in recruiting children in the State of South Kordofan. This disturbing information urged us to act and conduct investigations in different areas to confirm the veracity of the reports. We were able to obtain confirmed information that SPLA/SPLM have actually recruited a number of children in South Kordofan and transported them from their home areas as follows:

- 175 children were transported on 17 July 2011 from Kawalib area in the eastern mountains to Faryang area in the Unity State of the Republic of South Sudan
- 350 children were transported on 14 October 2011 from Haiban and Moro areas in the southern mountains to Faryang area in the Unity State of the Republic of South Sudan
- 75 children were transported on 14 October 2011 from Salara province to Faryang in the Unity State of the Republic of South Sudan
- 300 children were transported on 15 October 2011 from Boram province.

Therefore, the total number of children transported from their original areas during that period is 900 children, in addition to 1,000 children transported individually to Faryang area in the Unity State of the Republic of South Sudan. These children are currently in various SPLA camps; they were gathered under the pretext of schooling, but that was a lame excuse, as they were forced into military operations and engaged in hostilities.

We utterly condemn and denounce the forced deportation of these children by SPLA/SPLM in South Kordofan and their recruitment and engagement in military operations. This act violates their rights and amounts to a flagrant moral and legal violation of the principles and provisions of international and regional conventions on the rights of the child, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two optional protocols and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. It also amounts to a violation of Security Council resolutions on children in armed conflicts.

We therefore call upon the United Nations Children's Fund and the office of Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflicts, to investigate the violations perpetrated by SPLA/SPLM in South Kordofan of all moral obligations and international and humanitarian standards by forcibly transporting children from their home areas to another State and engaging them in military operations.

(Signed) Gamar Khalifa **Habani**
Secretary-General